



**NOAA
FISHERIES**

Update on Amendment 9 to the 2006 Consolidated HMS FMP

September 2015

Retrospective

- June 2010: Amendment 3 brought smoothhound sharks under federal management, but delayed the effective date of smoothhound shark measures
- January 2011: Shark Conservation Act of 2010 signed
- August 2011: HMS Trawl Rule allowed limited retention of smoothhound sharks caught in trawl gear; effective date delayed
- November 2011: Smoothhound measures delayed to allow time to consider SCA and finalize ESA consultation (BiOp)
- December 2012: 2012 Shark BiOp finalized
- August 2014: Draft Amendment 9 published, comment period ended November 14, 2014
- March 2015: SEDAR 39 smoothhound shark stock assessments complete
- June 2015: Determination that smoothhound sharks are not overfished or experiencing overfishing

Outline of Amendment 9 Measures

- Establish effective date for previously-adopted smoothhound shark measures in Amendment 3 (2010) & HMS Trawl Rule (2011)
- Implement smooth dogfish-specific provision of the Shark Conservation Act (SCA) of 2010
 - Catch composition
 - State permits
 - Geographic applicability
- Implement smoothhound shark quotas based on updated data
- Implement 2012 Shark Biological Opinion (BiOp) sink and drift gillnet requirements
- Adjust shark gillnet Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) requirement consistent with Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan (ALWTRP)

Comments Received

- Received ~ 500 comments
- Mixed support and opposition for most of the proposed measures
 - Most comments focused on quota, percent catch composition requirement, and “no other sharks on board” provision

Specific Amendment 9 Proposed Measures

- **SCA Smooth Dogfish-Specific Provision**
 - Allow at-sea fin removal of smooth dogfish if:
 - Smooth dogfish makes up at least 75 % of catch
 - No other sharks are retained
 - Vessel/fisherman holds a state commercial permit valid for smooth dogfish
 - Fishing within 50nm of the Atlantic coast from Maine through Florida (not including GOM)
 - Fin weight does not exceed 12 % of the carcass weight

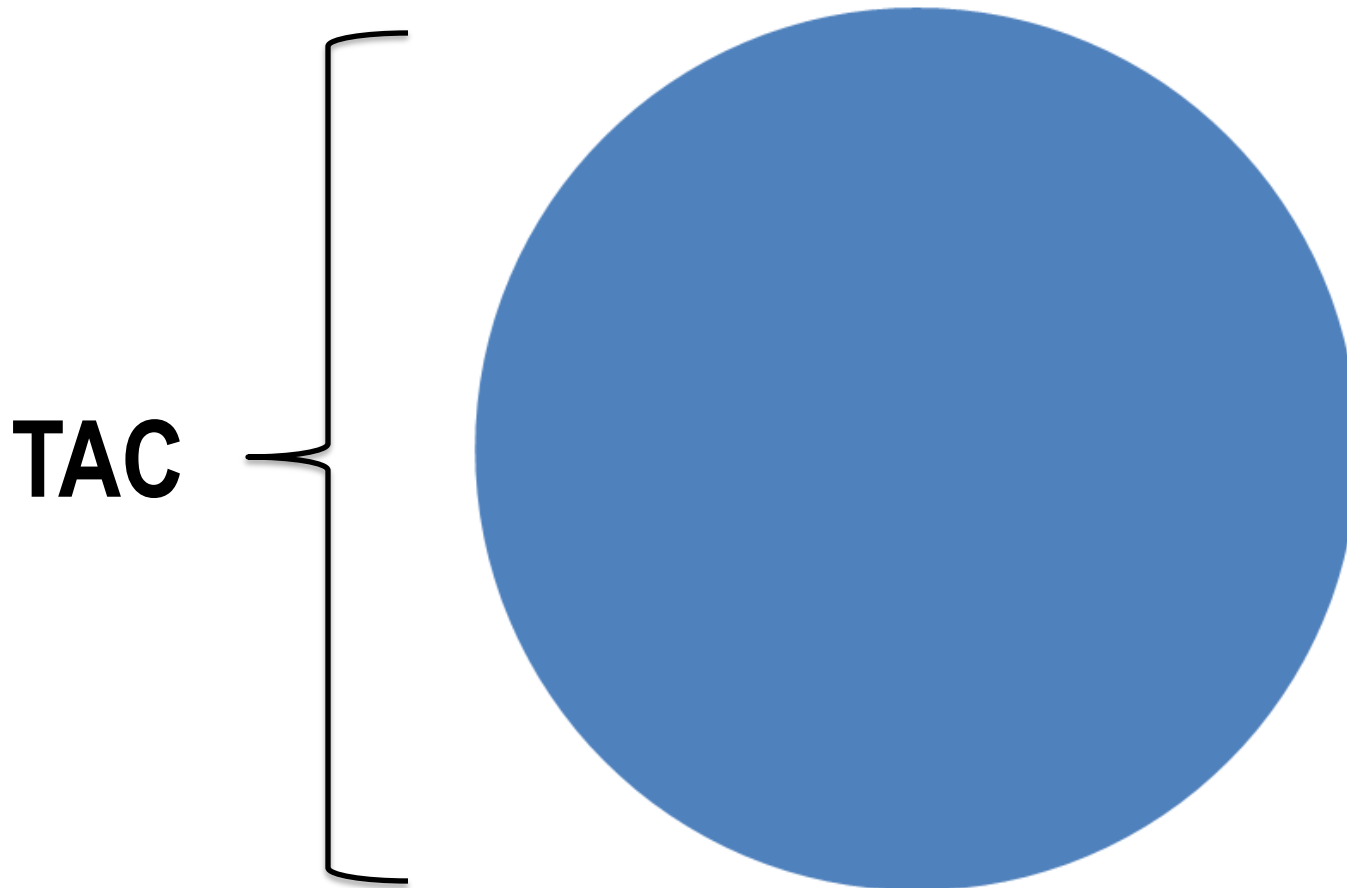
Specific Amendment 9 Proposed Measures

- **Smoothhound Shark Quotas**
 - Maximum annual landings from 2004-2013 plus two standard deviations = 1,739.9 mt dw (Amendment 3 methodology with updated data)
- **2012 Shark BiOp Gillnet Requirements**
 - Establish a soak time limit of 24 hours for sink gillnet gear and a 2 hour net check requirement for drift gillnet gear in the Atlantic shark and smoothhound shark fisheries
- **Shark Gillnet VMS Requirements**
 - Require federal directed shark permit holders with gillnet gear on board to use VMS only in the Southeast U.S. Monitoring Area, pursuant to Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan requirements

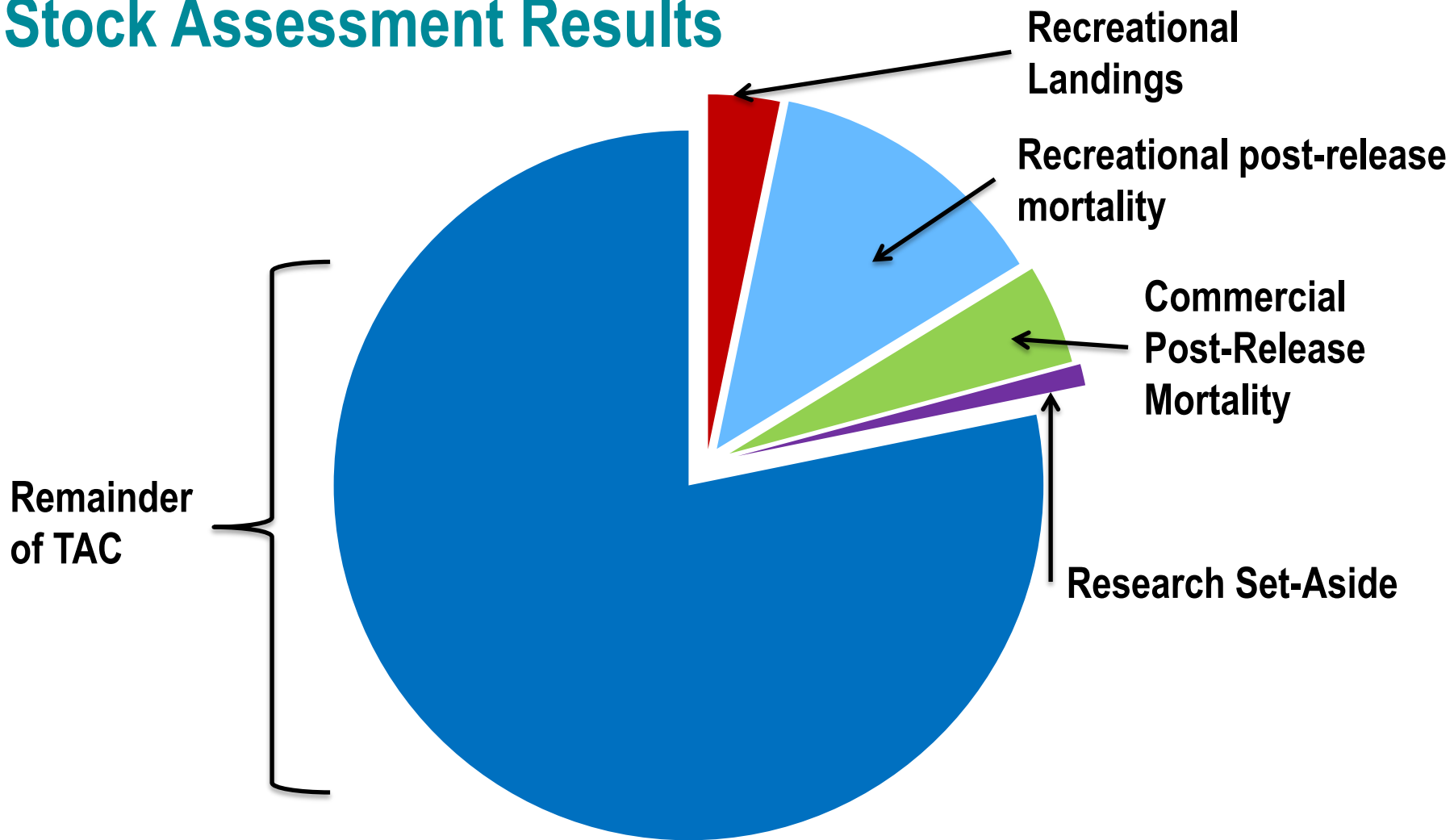
SEDAR 39 Smoothhound Shark Stock Assessments

- Completed March 2015
- Assessed smoothhound sharks as 2 separate stocks:
 - Atlantic: smooth dogfish only
 - Gulf of Mexico: smooth dogfish, Florida smoothhound, Gulf smoothhound
- Both stocks are not overfished and are not experiencing overfishing
- Recent harvest levels likely sustainable
- Projections:
 - Atlantic: TAC of 550,000 sharks has at least a 70 % probability of maintaining SSF above SSF_{MSY} during the years 2013-2022
 - 2012 commercial catch was 414,963 fish
 - Gulf of Mexico: 2012 catch (99,167 fish) could be doubled (or more) and still maintain a 70 % probability of avoiding overfishing

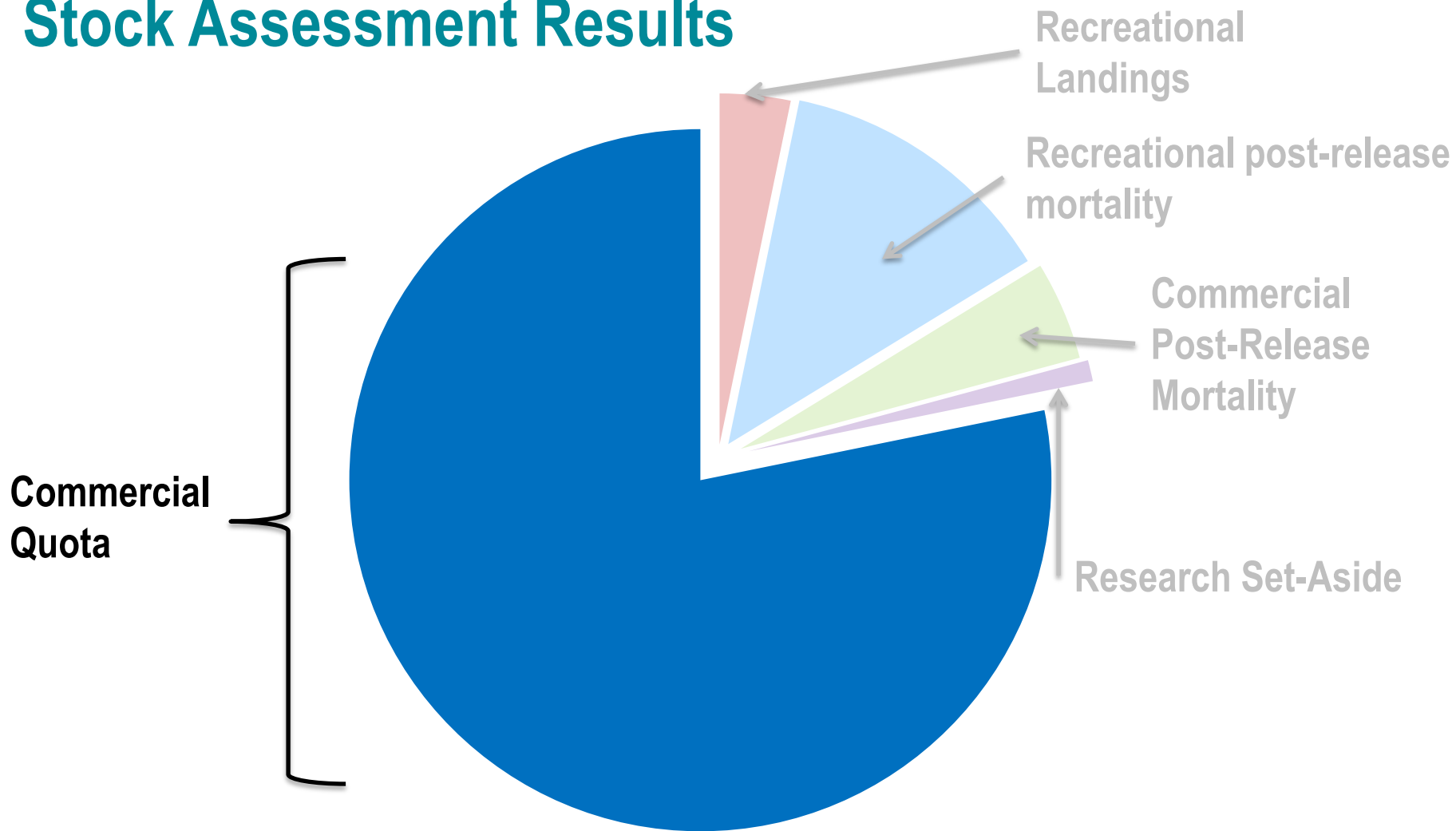
Quota Calculation Methodology Based on Shark Stock Assessment Results



Quota Calculation Methodology Based on Shark Stock Assessment Results



Quota Calculation Methodology Based on Shark Stock Assessment Results



Implementation Timing Targets

- Publish Final Rule in late fall or early winter
- Effective date of January 1, 2016 for all smoothhound shark (including smooth dogfish) measures, including:
 - Permit requirements
 - Quotas
 - Observer requirements